



# Overview of the Year for Kindergarten Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT ONE: Launching the Writing Workshop
OCTOBER	UNIT TWO: Approximating Small Moments
NOVEMBER	UNIT THREE: Looking Closely: Observing, Labeling, and Listing Like Scientists
DECEMBER	UNIT FOUR: Writing Pattern Books to Read, Write, and Teach
JANUARY	UNIT FIVE: Raising the Quality of Small Moment Writing
FEBRUARY	UNIT SIX: Procedural Writing: How-To Books
MARCH	UNIT SEVEN: Informational Books
APRIL	UNIT EIGHT: Authors as Mentors
MAY	UNIT NINE: Informational Books in Science
JUNE	UNIT TEN: Poetry and Songs

Your kindergartners will come to you this year full of stories and information. Some will come from homes in which parents invite their sons and daughters to add to the shopping list or to write stories for the dolls and teddy bears, and some will come from Pre-K classrooms in which children are invited to write, tell, and act stories. But for most of your children, it will be you who will introduce them to the world of written language. This is an enormously important responsibility because you will be the person who helps each and every child in your classroom know that he or she belongs in the world of written language. You will be the one



# Overview of the Year for First-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Launching with Small Moments
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Writing-for-Readers
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Realistic Fiction
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Procedural Writing: How-To Books
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Opinion Writing: Persuasive Letters and Speeches
FEBRUARY	UNIT 6: Authors as Mentors: Craftsmanship and Revision
MARCH	UNIT 7: Informational Books
APRIL	UNIT 8: Cross-Genre Writing Projects
MAY	UNIT 9: Informational Writing about Science
JUNE	UNIT 10: Poetry: Powerful Thoughts in Tiny Packages

The 2011–2012 proposal for a writing curricular calendar is designed to align with the Common Core State Standards and represents one possible way that a year in first grade might unfold. You will notice that many of the writing units are similar to last year, but as you read deeper, you will notice several changes. This curriculum reflects the genres of writing that are spelled out by the Common Core State Standards



# Overview of the Year for Second-Grade Writers

September	UNIT ONE: Launching with Nonfiction
October	UNIT TWO: Authors as Mentors
November	UNIT THREE: Writing and Revising Realistic Fiction
December	UNIT FOUR: Expert Projects: Informational Writing
January	UNIT FIVE: Opinion Writing: Persuasive Reviews
February	UNIT SIX: Writing Gripping Stories with Meaning and Significance
March	UNIT SEVEN: Using Nonfiction Texts as Mentors to Support Nonfiction Writing
April	UNIT EIGHT: Writing Adaptations of Familiar Fairy Tales and Folk Tales, and Perhaps Writing Original Fantasy Stories as Well
May	UNIT NINE: Informational Writing about Science
June	UNIT TEN: Poetry: Powerful Thoughts in Tiny Packages



# Overview of the Year for Third-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Launching the Writing Workshop
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Raising the Quality of Narrative Writing
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Realistic Fiction
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Opinion Writing: Persuasive Reviews and Speeches/Letters
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Informational Writing
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Poetry
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Genre Studies
MAY	UNIT 8: Informational Writing: Reading, Research, and Writing in the Content Areas
JUNE	UNIT 9: Revision

This curricular calendar details the Reading and Writing Project's proposal for a third-grade writing curriculum aligned with the Common Core State Standards. It has been extensively revised from the 2010–2011 version and will be revised again in the spring of 2012 to reflect the new learning we continue to pursue. Always, the Reading and Writing Project's curricular calendars outline, for each K–8 grade, a yearlong course of study that is part of a spiral curriculum. Fashioned with



# Overview of the Year for Fourth-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Raising the Level of Personal Narrative Writing
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Realistic Fiction
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: The Personal and Persuasive Essay: Boxes-and-Bullets and Argument Structures for Essay Writing
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Informational Writing: Building on Expository Structures to Write Lively, Voice-Filled Nonfiction Picture Books
JANUARY/FEBRUARY	UNIT 5: Historical Fiction: Tackling Complex Texts
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Poetry: Thematic Anthologies
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Literary Essay and Test Preparation in Writing
MAY	UNIT 8: Informational Writing: Reading, Research, and Writing in the Content Areas
JUNE	UNIT 9: Memoir

This curricular calendar details the Reading and Writing Project's proposal for a Common Core State Standards-aligned writing curriculum in fourth-grade classrooms. This document has been extensively revised since 2010–11. The document will be revised a year from now, in spring 2012, to reflect all the new learn-



# Overview of the Year for Fifth-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Memoir
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: The Interpretive Essay: <i>Exploring and Defending Big Ideas about Life and Texts</i>
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Informational Writing: <i>Building on Expository Structures to Write Lively, Voice-Filled Nonfiction Picture Books</i>
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Research-Based Argument Essays
JANUARY/FEBRUARY	UNIT 5: Historical Fiction or Fantasy Fiction
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Poetry
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Literary Essay and Test Preparation in Writing
MAY	UNIT 8: Informational Writing: <i>Reading, Research, and Writing in the Content Areas</i>
JUNE	UNIT 9: Historical Fiction or Fantasy Fiction

This curricular calendar details the Reading and Writing Project's proposal for a Common Core State Standards-aligned writing curriculum for fifth-grade classrooms. This document has been extensively revised since 2010–2011, and the document will be revised a year from now, in spring of 2012, to reflect all the new



## Overview of the Year for Sixth-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Raising the Level of Personal Narrative Writing and Edging toward Memoir
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Realistic Fiction/Social Action Fiction
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Informational Writing: Nonfiction Books
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: The Personal and Persuasive Essay
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Historical Fiction
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Literary Essay: Analyzing Texts for Meaning, Craft, and Tone
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Writing Prompted Essays for the NYS ELA Exam
MAY	UNIT 8: Poetry
JUNE	UNIT 9: Independent Writing: Launching a Summer of Writing

The calendar starts with this overview of essential structures and assessment tools. Following in the calendar is a complete description of each unit of study that we hope will prepare you to teach these units with grace and expertise. We have differentiated units across grades in middle school, so that while sixth grade, for instance, launches with Raising the Level of Personal Narrative, seventh grade moves to memoir, and eighth grade begins collecting toward application essays. Of course, as you assess and get to know your readers, you might decide that you and your grade-level colleagues want to incorporate a writing unit from an alternate grade.



## Overview of the Year for Seventh-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Memoir
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Realistic Fiction/Social Action Fiction
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Informational Writing: <i>Nonfiction Books</i>
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Research-Based Argument (Persuasive) Essays
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Historical Fiction
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Literary Essay: <i>Analyzing Texts for Meaning, Craft, and Tone</i>
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Writing Prompted Essays for the NYS 2011 ELA Exam
MAY	UNIT 8: Poetry
JUNE	UNIT 9: Independent Writing: <i>Launching a Summer of Writing</i>

The calendar starts with this overview of essential structures and assessment tools. Following in the calendar is a complete description of each unit of study that we hope will prepare you to teach these units with grace and expertise. We have differentiated units across grades in middle school, so that while sixth grade, for instance, launches with Raising the Level of Personal Narrative, seventh grade moves to memoir, and eighth grade begins collecting toward application essays. Of course, as you assess and get to know your readers, you might decide that you and your grade level colleagues want to incorporate a writing unit from an alternate grade. You'll notice the influence of the Common Core State Standards on these



## Overview of the Year for Eighth-Grade Writers

SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Building a Writer's Life: <i>Collecting Toward Essays</i>
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Writing "The Application Essay" for High School, College, and Careers
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Multi-Modal Information Writing: <i>Harnessing Technology to Teach Ideas</i>
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: Journalism
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Fantasy Writing
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Literary Essays: <i>Analyzing Texts for Meaning, Craft, and Tone</i>
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Writing Prompted Essays for the NYS ELA Exam
MAY/JUNE	UNIT 8: Poetry

The calendar starts with this overview of essential structures and assessment tools. Following in the calendar is a complete description of each unit of study that we hope will prepare you to teach these units with grace and expertise. We have differentiated units across grades in middle school, so that while sixth grade, for instance, launches with Raising the Level of Personal Narrative, seventh grade moves to memoir, and eighth grade begins collecting toward application essays. The eighth grade course of study particularly aims to prepare adolescents for high school coursework and increased levels of independence. Of course, as you assess and get to know